# A SERMON

Preached before the

# GARRISON

OF

# London-Derry,

IN THE

## Extremity of the SIEGE.

Wherein is briefly and truly represented,

The Deplorable Miseries and Calamities which they endur'd before the Arrival of Maj. Gen. *KIRK*.

By the Reverend Mr. *SETH WHITTLE*, late Rector of *Balliachy*, in the County of *London-derry*.

Licens'd, James Fraser.

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BODLEIANA

# A SERMON

Preached before the Garriſon of

# London-Derry, &c.

JER. I. Verſ. xviii, xix.

*For behold, I have made thee this day a defenced City, and an iron Pillar, and brazen Walls againſt the whole Land, againſt the Kings of* Judah, *againſt the Princes thereof, againſt the Prieſts thereof, and againſt the People of the Land.*

*And they ſhall fight againſt thee, but they ſhall not prevail againſt thee: For I am with thee, ſaith the Lord, to deliver thee.*

*Dearly beloved Brethren, Fellow-Actors, and Fellow-Sufferers.*

THE Holy Scriptures are ſo univerſally reaching, and comprehenſive, ſo adapted to all the Neceſſities and Occaſions of Mankind, that whatſoever his Station, Calling or Imployment be, or whatſoever Temptation he may lye under; he ſhall there meet with Caution, Inſtruction and Direction, pertinent and ſufficient to guide him in all the Intricacies of worldly Accidents and humane Tranſactions. From this Fountain do ſpring Cordial-waters for the fainting Souls, healing for the wounded Spirits, purging for ſuperfluous and peccant Humors. In them we meet with Documents to teach us; Precepts to awe us; Warnings to admo-

niſh us; Promiſes to encourage us; and Examples to lead us. We are humbled by them in Proſperity, and revived in Adverſity. When the Contrivances of our Enemies are arrived at the utmoſt pitch of Malice; when we are neglected by our Friends, perſecuted by our Foes, reduced to the utmoſt Extremities which are the uſual Concomitants of War, and Famine; when we are deprived of all viſible appearances of ſafety, and all probable means of eſcape; He that watcheth over us, and without whoſe ſuperintendency the Watchman waketh but in vain, deſcends to viſit us, to relieve us in the Extremity of our Diſtreſs, refreſhing us with this comfortable Aſſurance. *For behold, I have made Thee*, &c.

The Text divideth it ſelf eaſily into three Parts. Firſt, a Gracious Declaration of the Mercy and Goodneſs of God to his People, in theſe Words; *For behold, I have made Thee*, &c.

Secondly, A firm Aſſurance of Protection, and Relief, in theſe Words: *And they ſhall fight againſt Thee, but ſhall not prevail againſt Thee.*

Thirdly, An infallible Reaſon to fortifie their Hopes: *For I am with thee, ſaith the Lord, to deliver thee.*

The firſt may be ſubdivided into theſe Conſiderations; Firſt, a relative word, *For*. Secondly, a word of Attention, *Behold*. Thirdly, a Narration of what is done, *They are made a defenced City, an Iron Pillar, and brazen Walls*. Fourthly, the Author and Original of this Strength, *I have made Thee*. Fifthly, the Adverſaries againſt whom this Strength and Defence is made; *The whole Land, the Kings of Judah, the Princes, and the Prieſts*. Sixthly, the Time when, *This Day*.

The ſecond conſiſts, firſt of a Denunciation, or Warring, *They ſhall fight againſt thee*. Secondly, a Prediction, or Incouragement, *They ſhall not prevail againſt thee.*

The

The third contains a Notice given of the Preſence and Aſſiſtance of God, *I am with Thee*; Secondly, the Effect and Operation of his Preſence, *To deliver Thee*; Thirdly, the Reaſon and Cauſe, why they may expect Deliverance, *ſaith the Lord.*

The word, *For*, hath a Relation to the antecedent Verſes of the Chapter, where the Prophet enumerates the Actions and Practices of the People of the North, That *they ſhall come, and ſhall ſet every man his Throne at the Entring of the Gates of* Jeruſalem, *and againſt the Walls thereof; yet the City ſhall be delivered, the Enemies of the North ſhall not prevail againſt it, for it is made a defenced City, an Iron Pillar, and brazen Walls*, &c.

The word, *Behold*, commands an attention, *Look to it, and obſerve it, it is the Lord hath ſpoken it, and it ſhall ſurely come to paſs.*

The time when, ought to be regarded with the greateſt Joy, and Satisfaction; there ſhall be no delatory Proceeding, nor Obſtruction in their Deliverance and Safety, they ſhall ſuddenly eſcape, for it is done, *This Day.*

Though the Princes of the Land, confederating with the Prieſts, and followed by the People, ſhall beſiege *Jeruſalem*, caſt up Trenches about it, aſſault the Walls, and execute all the Miſchiefs, that Rage and Malice can inſpire them with; it is to no purpoſe, the Attempt is altogether vain: *For it is a defenced City, an Iron Pillar, and brazen Walls.*

The Enemies of the Lord, and his People may fight againſt *Jeruſalem*; they may poſſeſs the adjacent Country about it; they may prevent all Succors and Approaches for Relief; they may annoy them with continual Batteries without; and reduce them to Extremities by Want, Famine, and incommodious Habitation within, yet they ſhall not prevail, all their

their Endeavors and Deſigns ſhall be fruſtrated, and render'd of no Effect.

Let no man entertain the leaſt umbrage of Fear or Diſmay; let no man deſpond or be perplexed with anxious Apprehenſions, tho' their Enemies proceed without Check or Interruption; tho' their Friends and Allies may ſeem to neglect or forget them: yet they are ſecure from all Danger and Surpriſe; their Force is irreſiſtible, and their Succeſs unqueſtionable; *For the Lord is with them, and will deliver them.* Nay, they may aſſuredly rely upon it; all the Powers of the Earth cannot hinder, or diſappoint it, *For the Lord hath ſaid it.*

To apply this Text to the preſent Circumſtances in which we are.

We have been ſurrounded in this poor City for divers Months; beleaguer'd by a multitude of mercileſs and implacable Enemies; expoſed to Danger, without ceaſing or intermiſſion; we have been deſerted by thoſe who came to our Relief; tempted by Parlies, and ſpecious Terms of Capitulation; undermined by treacherous Contrivances among our ſelves; exerciſed with all the varieties of Terror and Amazement; the ſmall Shot hath poured upon us like a ſhower of Hail; the great Guns, like Thunder, have ſhaken our Walls; and the Bombs, like Lightning, have ruin'd our Houſes; we have ſeen Death in all its horrible ſhapes, and we are every moment entertain'd with ſpectacles of Miſery and Mortality; Sickneſs and Diſeaſes are entred within our Gates; and pale Famine is viſible in every Countenance; the fond Mother hath not a Morſel of Bread to appeaſe the languiſhing Cry of her ſtarved Infant; the grateful Son hath not wherewithal to ſuſtain his aged Parent; one Friend looks upon another, and ſees his Miſery,

Miſery, but cannot prevent a lingring Death; he that formerly had his Table cover'd with variety of Diſhes, knows not where to ſatisfie Nature with one wholſom bit; we cannot refreſh our ſelves with ſuch Scraps and Morſels, as we formerly allow'd to our Dogs; nay, we are conſtrain'd to eat of ſuch things, as at another time human nature would nauſeate and abhor. Nevertheleſs God has made us this day a defenced City, and an Iron Pillar, and Brazen Walls, againſt the whole Land.

He that was our King, and ſhould have treated us like a nurſing Father, who ſolemnly promiſed, to defend the Eſtabliſhed Religion, and maintain us in our Properties, has unnaturally bent his Forces to deſtroy us. He hath ſet up Idolatry in all corners of the Land; he hath animated the Natives to wreak their Malice and Revenge upon us; he hath brought in the bloody *French-men* and Foreigners to repeat thoſe Cruelties here, which with ſo much Barbarity they have acted in our Neighbor-Countries; the *Iriſh* Skene is added to the *French* Bayonet; and the Rappeeres outdo the Dragoons. The Lords and Gentry of the *Iriſh* Nation, are as one Man combined againſt us; the Popiſh Prieſts, like the Bell-weathers of Sedition and Tumult, have led their Flocks, and involved their whole Nation in an unſatiable Thirſt after our Blood, and an implacable Reſolution to deſtroy us; our Friends round about us are plunder'd, driven from their Habitations, and the whole Country is deſolate and depopulated. Yet for all this, the Almighty God hath preſerved and defended us, againſt the Kings of *Judah*, againſt the Princes thereof, againſt the Prieſts thereof, and againſt the People of the Land.

And tho' hitherto (by the Mercy of God) we have been ſucceſsful in our Reſiſtance, and proſperous in our

our Sallies againſt them, yet they are inexorable in their Wrath, and reſtleſs in their malicious Deſigns; they mean to ſtorm us, or ſtarve us; they preſume upon their great Strength, and mighty Numbers; they flatter themſelves with an aſſurance, that we muſt one day fall into their hands; that one poor City cannot long reſiſt the united Forces of a whole Kingdom, and the auxiliary Aid of *France*. Therefore we are to expect the utmoſt Tryals, that their Hatred to our Religion and our Country can inflame them and prompt them to. But let this be your comfort, tho' they ſhall fight againſt us, yet they ſhall not prevail againſt us.

For the Lord is with us, the Lord is on our ſide, we will not fear what Man can do unto us. Let them truſt in Princes, and boaſt of their Horſes, but we will put our truſt in the Lord. Let them fall down before their Images, and vainly invoke the Angels and tutelar Saints; let them cry to the Holy Virgin to help them, and to St. *Patrick* to ſave them; We will make our Addreſſes to Him, who is only able to relieve us; our whole dependance ſhall be upon Him, who never faileth them that put their truſt in Him, who hath ſaid, *He is with us, to deliver us.*

Wherefcre, my Beloved, let me exhort you to be ſtedfaſt in your Duty; to be importunate with God in Prayers; to caſt your Care upon Him with a lively Hope, and well-grounded Faith; to rouze up your wonted Courage; to arm your ſelves with your accuſtomed Reſolution; to fall upon the Enemies of God and Religion, the Deſtroyers of your Eſtates and Country, the inhumane Murderers of your Friends and Brethren. Proceed with a ſteady aſſurance of Succeſs and Victory, *For the Lord is with you, and will deliver you.*

*F I N I S.*